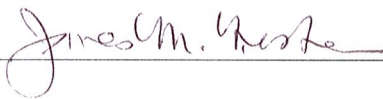


**FORM OF STATEMENT TO BE FILED BY
AUTHOR(S) OF ARGUMENT**

The undersigned **author** of the primary argument **against** the ballot measure amending the Newport Beach City Charter to add Section 713 to the City Charter, establishing the powers and duties of the Harbor Commission and making the Harbor Commission a City Charter designated Appointive Board and Commission, at the General Municipal Election for the City of Newport Beach to be held on Tuesday, November 3, 2020, hereby states that the argument is true and correct to the best of his knowledge and belief, *and* that he is a registered voter eligible to vote on the measure.

SIGN NAME	PRINT NAME	DATE
	James M. Mosher	May 26, 2020

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Direct Argument Against Ballot Measure Approved at May 12, 2020, City Council Meeting

The city charter is the people’s binding blueprint for how they expect their local government to be run.

Changes to it should be carefully considered and thoroughly debated before putting them to a vote. Yet, the city council in Newport Beach has a history of placing poorly-considered changes before the people.

The present proposal is no exception.

If placing the powers and duties of the Harbor Commission in the charter were necessary, which it is not, it would be a time for careful review and reconsideration of exactly what those powers and duties should be. But this proposal, written by an author unknown and rushed to the ballot months before necessary, has received absolutely zero public discussion or review -- not even by the existing Harbor Commission. In fact, the Council’s wordless vote on May 12 to place this on the ballot was taken without the agenda mentioning such a proposal was being considered, or any announcement such action had been taken.

As to its unvetted substance, the City Attorney assures us the measure simply moves that Commission’s current powers and duties into the charter, where they cannot be changed except by the voters. But this is not true. The language is not the same.

The only question asked on May 12 was by me, and it was: should voters approve this, does it mean *all* subsequent harbor-related matters going before the Council must be accompanied by a recommendation from this newly-voter-empowered Harbor Commission? The response from the council: silence.

When the public is asked to vote yes or no on charter language that was developed with no public discussion or review, and whose meaning even its proposers don’t seem to know, the answer is simple: vote NO.

Submitted by: James M. (“Jim”) Mosher, a Newport Beach voter

James M. Mosher, 5/26/2020

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